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New home constructed by the owner under the Mutual Aid Housing program.

362 an impact, however. Low-rent home consruction programs have been funded by
657 the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; fifty such units were completed and accepted in 1966 and another fifty-five were nearing completion during the summer of 1970. Construction had started during that summer of fifty middle income rental homes financed by a tribal investment of land and F.H.A. supported loans. In another program, the Housing Authority, supported by the U.S. Federal Housing Assistance Administration began Mutual Help Housing construction. The first units under this program were occupied in 1965 and additional units have been completed and occupied in each succeeding year in Browning, Babb, and Starr School. This is a cooperative endeavor drawing on the resources of many agencies. The F.H.A.A. made a loan for the purchase of material and wages for supervisory labor, the B.I.A. provided general supervisory help, the tribe through the Housing Authority selected the candidates for home ownership. The purchasers contributed their labor to build their own house and to help their neighbors, and agreed to pay off the loan with small monthly payments geared to the family income. No one buyer could occupy his house until all houses of any one segment of the program were finished. These projects take time; the faster builder awaits the slower, but with cooperation the job gets done.

653 Other tribal investments of land combined with federal loan programs have resulted in the completion of a new tribal office and community center and a new modern jail.

529 The attention of both the tribe and the B.I.A. has recently turned to the
655 development of the tourist potential of the reservation. For many years the Blackfeet have been aware of the tourists. Many have earned money as entertainers at the lodges of Glacier National Park, others have profited from the sale of Indian
217 crafts to tourists passing through the reservation to and from the park. The
531 Museum of the Plains Indian has attracted an ever increasing number of visitors
443 since its opening in 1941, and the Blackfeet Arts and Crafts Association has supplied and sold local Indian work through the museum gift shop and through its own shop at St. Mary.

6: McFee E-4,5 (1959-1967) 1972 NF6 Blackfoot NF6

its own shop at St. Mary. Duck Lake in the northern part of the reservation has long been famous as a fishing spot and attracted its share of travelers. But it is becoming apparent that the tourist potential has hardly been tapped. Plans are well along for a major tourist complex, with a lodge, campground, dining facilities, bar, marina, Indian tepee village and other facilities on Lower St. Mary Lake. Some camping facilities are already available and others are being planned. Such enterprises will surely produce revenues for the tribe; how many jobs will result for tribal members is another question. Concessionaires often bring their own employees in spite of efforts by the tribe to guarantee these jobs to local people.

Head Start, Community Action Planning and other ventures supported by grants from the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity continue to relieve some of the problems of the tribe; yet much needs to be done. I feel a sense of optimism about the future, but find this feeling difficult to support except for certain material signs of an improved economy—new buildings, homes, roads and services. For many people, however, the basic problem of a meaningful job and a reliable income seem as far away as ever. New industries help, but still do not provide jobs for all who need them among a growing population. Employment reports still show high unemployment and a primary dependence on firefighting and other seasonal and sporadic kinds of wage labor for jobs. Robbins's study of the Heart Butte region does little to allay these fears. He reported that only 50 percent of the cash income reported by the members of his sample came from employment, another 20 percent derived from land leased to others and 30 percent of the income for these households came from welfare funds (Robbins 1968:198). Heart Butte is not representative of the whole reservation, but may well indicate the economic conditions in the underdeveloped rural areas.

A similarly gloomy view is expressed by local people in an application for the support of a Model Cities Program:

> The lack of Employment Opportunities is basic. Year round jobs are scarce. Available opportunities in this area are mostly seasonal, thus throwing many workers into a low income bracket. This is true of Indian and non-Indian alike. Jobs that do become available are oftentimes accompanied with unrealistic requirements, i.e., setting educational levels too high, years of experience for the job too extreme, or emphasis on racial preferences.
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> There are not enough diverse fields of interest—no technical challenges. Work categories are numbered and few. Economic resources are undeveloped to a great extent. . . . Training is limited particularly in specialized fields. . . . Poor work habits must be overcome as job and training opportunities come forth. . . . A careless attitude has built up along with the feeling of uselessness. . . .
>
> The role of the male is decaying in the home due to this feeling of uselessness. The woman has taken on an increasing role in family providing and management. The male role must be revitalized if there is to be job success. Learning skills would be an encouragement. . . .
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> Low income is prevalent on the Reservation, particularly among Indian families. Approximately 62% of the resident Indian families have annual incomes below $3,000.00, and the mean income is $1,700.00. It has been estimated that approximately 3,000 persons receive some form of welfare financial assistance during part of each year. In the case of large families, the assistance standards are sometimes actually competitive with available earned income, since many local jobs, cowpunching for example, pay far below minimum standard wages. . . .

6: McFee E-4,5 (1959-1967) 1972 NF6 Blackfoot NF6

incurred for less important reasons. Capable administrators in many other U.S. towns have elected the same route to the revival of local economies.

An extension of the recent and steady upward trend in tourist activity supports a prediction of success for this venture. Again space, water, clean air, in addition to good hunting and fishing and the proximity to Glacier National Park, provide a strong base for tourist development. Tourist facilities appear to be a sound investment that would, in the long run, continue to bring in outside money regardless of the ups and downs of the national economy. The trends in this industry can be influenced by what developments take place in the cities. Will changes encourage city dwellers to spend more of their leisure time at home, or result in ever increasing search for open space and sport? Concerns for the environment will play a part in the planning and building of tourist facilities. What if studies show that tourist activities should be curtailed in the interest of preserving the very attractions the local people wish to exploit? What is the future for the automobile, motorboating, motorcycles, and ski-mobiles? Substitutes for the internal combustion engine will change the nature of motor service operations. Radical changes in recreational facilities might result, if automobile and related private, engine-powered personal transportation and sports equipment were curtailed and mass public transport was expanded. Highway construction, parking facilities, power boat and automobile servicing facilities, motels, campgrounds designed for auto traffic all would be affected. Different kinds of facilities would be needed depending on the forms of transportation that evolved. Curtailment of motor driven equipment might greatly increase the use of horses for recreation. The reservation is well suited for raising horses, and already has more than are needed for present purposes. A right guess here would make a big difference in the odds for success in tourist development. The positive aspect here is that the resources are on or near the reservation and at present these are relatively untouched. There is less of a vested interest to oppose change than would be the case if the region had already been highly developed. Little present or planned development would stand in the way of such a change.

Another trend that some predict for the U.S. economy that may affect the outcome of reservation programs is the prospect that computers and other forms of mechanization will put work as we know it out of style. If, in the next few decades, there will be fewer jobs as we know them one of two things will have to happen. The high value placed on work for its own sake will have to give way to other measures of personal worth, or other activities now called play or recreation will have to be brought into the definition of work. In either case such a change would seem to work against the success of the industrial development, but boost the prospects of success in the area of recreation. Many tribal members who have trouble finding jobs, but have developed the skills of crafts, art, and sociability may find themselves better prepared for the future than those who appear successful under present conditions. Projected plans for some form of minimum guaranteed income would have unforeseen results but could be only an improvement over present conditions.

Local and tribal participation in these attempts at solving the economic problems of the reservation have contributed along with many other experiences

177 few of the white-oriented persons turned out. One white-oriented
184 informant went with us to one of the dances at Starr School and remarked
535 that this was the first time she had attended an Indian dance indoors.
The crowds (usually estimated from three to four hundred in number)
were made up of the same people who had been seen in most constant
attendance at the Indian Days programs.

Neighborhood Horse Races and Stick Games

177 The more Indian-oriented communities, Starr School, Heart Butte,
184 Little Badger and Two Medicine, alternately sponsored horse racing in
541 their neighborhoods. These were almost weekly affairs during the
summer and fall, with those at Heart Butte the most frequent. Horse
owners and racing fans from many parts of the reservation turned out
to visit and watch the horses run.

[524] Stick games were played after the races, and at Heart Butte
the games were a regular part of the year around weekend activities.
[529] A public game room was operated by one of the residents and an area
in this room had been arranged for playing the stick game. This was
a regular gathering place for the people of Heart Butte and drew a
few visitors from other parts of the reservation.

The horse races attracted some white-oriented horse fans, but
the majority of the crowd was Indian-oriented. Races were occasions
for Indian people to get together to enjoy the races and each other's
[524] company. The stick games had a regular but more limited following
and with few exceptions, players and observers were Indian-oriented.

177 small lake adjacent to Highway No. 2 a few miles southwest of Browning.
184 An estimated one-third of the children taking part in these fishing
541 contests were from Indian-oriented families, yet only four or five Indian-oriented adults were in attendance.

SemiPrivate and Private Interaction

177 In the realm of semiprivate interaction are included civic
184 club meetings and bowling tournaments. The informants and the newspaper reports indicate an almost complete white-oriented participation in these activities.

[515] Civic club membership is selective and based upon business, school or political leadership. The selection factors in operation are many and complex but it is clear that very few Indian-oriented people belong to these organizations; that these are areas of predominantly white-oriented interaction.

[526] The bowling alley was completed after the field work was
[529] finished, so the conclusions about its use are based on newspaper reports.[175] They indicate that selective factors operate to maintain a predominant white and white-oriented participation, particularly in team and tournament play.

[574] Factors of social selection also work in private gatherings and visiting patterns between families and friends. The bonds of kinship draw some of the Indian-oriented into the visiting patterns of white-oriented people, but these occasions are infrequent. Economic and

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[175] Bowling news in The Glacier Reporter, op. cit., beginning with Vol. 30, No. 31, October 6, 1960, p. 6, and subsequent issues.

461 above and the presence of this specialized task in the roll of "favorites." This favoritism conflicts with the proposition that the young Blood choose their "favorites" on the basis of success potential. However, as a relatively non-injurious, exciting, and widespread sport, it should be 529 ranked high by the young men of the Reserve. Today, there 541 is a Blood Indian roping club, composed of both adults and 517 young men. Its "jackpot" roping events are well attended by both the young men and the more proficient adult practitioners. Thus it is thought to be a "favorite" because of the desirable social and experiential aspects of the activity and not to be in conflict with the assertion that "favorites" are generally of high success potential. The Blood value this activity because of its athletic and competitive nature, because it is not highly injurious, because it fits closely the casual and free pattern of the stock raising complex, and because a number of Blood have been and are now successful at it. For example, at a recent All-Indian Rodeo in Browning, Montana, most of the recipients of "day-money" or the major prize money in Calf Roping were Bloods.

461 It is felt, therefore, that Calf Roping is another 554 example of the powerful pull of the Ranching-rodeo value orientation. These activities share attributes that are generally valued by the Blood, and it is felt that the Blood

BLACKFEET RESERVATION

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[366] **Vital Statistics**

[368] Population:
[527] Indians residing
[529] on or adjacent to
reservation: 6,216

[162] Labor Force:
Total: 1,353
[464] Unemployed: 495
Unemployment
rate: 37%

TRIBAL ECONOMY

Average annual tribal income is $500,000. Ninety percent of this income is derived from minerals and 10 percent from miscellaneous sources. There are several industrial enterprises on the reservation, including a pencil manufacturer and a lumber cut-stock plant, providing employment for tribal members and income to the tribe.

CLIMATE

Rainfall averages about 14 inches per year. The temperature ranges from a high of 85° to a low of −20°.

TRANSPORTATION

U.S. Highway 89 runs southeast-northwest, and U.S. Highway 2 runs east-west through the reservation. Train, bus, and truck services are available on the reservation at Browning, while commercial air service is available at Great Falls, 125 miles away.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

A large community building is available at Browning for various tribal activities. A modern library with 3,000 volumes was recently completed. The water system at Browning is municipally owned. Electricity is furnished by Glacier Cooperative and natural gas by Montana Power Company. The U.S. Public Health Service hospital at Browning provides medical care for tribal members.

RECREATION

Browning, gateway to Glacier National Park, is the principal reservation shopping center. This is also the site of the Museum of the Plains Indians, a nationally known repository of Indian artifacts. North American Indian Days are celebrated annually with dances, ceremonies, and a rodeo. In addition to Glacier National Park, reservation recreation areas include Lower St. Mary's Lake, Duck Lake, and other such areas.